

not be proper to submit it until the articles reported by the committee had been gone through with. As to this 4th article, it was passed over, I understood, because at the time some gentlemen were absent who desired to speak upon it. It was passed over merely for the time being, not until the end of the report.

Mr. STIRLING. So far as this matter is concerned, it is entirely within the control of the Convention. The article was passed over informally, because at the time some members of the minority of the committee that made this report were absent. If we go on with this report from article 26 to the end, we will use up the two or three days of this week, during which we shall have probably the largest attendance here. And as the Convention probably will not be in session for at least a portion of next week, and this article will be postponed until after next week, I move that we now proceed to consider article four of this report.

The motion was agreed to.

Article four was then read as follows:

"The Constitution of the United States and the laws made in pursuance thereof being the supreme law of the land, every citizen of this State owes paramount allegiance to the Constitution and Government of the United States, and is not bound by any law or ordinance of this State in contravention or subversion thereof."

The article, by general consent, was amended, at the suggestion of Mr. PUGH, by prefixing the word "that," so that it will read—"That the Constitution of the United States," &c.

Mr. CLARKE submitted the following amendment:

Strike out all after the word "that" in the first line, and insert the following in lieu thereof:

"The Constitution of the United States and the laws made in pursuance thereof being the supreme law of the land, every citizen of this State owes allegiance to the Constitution and Government of the United States within the limits of the powers conferred by that Constitution, and is not bound by any law or ordinance of this State in contravention or subversive thereof; and the powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States being reserved to the States respectively, or to the people, every citizen of this State owes allegiance to the State of Maryland so far as the sovereignty of the State has not been affected by the Constitution of the United States and the laws made in pursuance thereof, and is not bound to yield obedience to laws made in direct violation of the Constitution of the United States and in the exercise of usurped powers."

Mr. CLARKE. I shall be most happy to yield the floor to any gentleman of the ma-

jority of the committee, or of the majority of the House; or to any gentleman of the minority of the committee who may desire to be heard upon this question. Perhaps the gentleman from Kent (Mr. Chambers) desires to be heard; if so, I will yield to him with pleasure.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I had no idea this article would be taken up to-day, as I supposed that other articles would be considered, and amendments to those offered before this would be taken up. I had not proposed to say one word upon this article until near the close of the argument upon it, and do not desire to address the Convention to-day. I know, from information from others, that there are several gentlemen here who had proposed when the question came up on this article, to participate in the debate, but who are not prepared to do so to-day. I had proposed to submit my views upon this subject to the Convention at a late period of the discussion. And having made the report of the minority of the committee, it may perhaps be considered that I will be entitled to close the debate. I can only say this now, that I cannot vote for any proposition that makes me swear allegiance to the Government of the United States. I can understand that I am to support the Constitution and laws of the United States, but I do not understand what is meant here by the Government of the United States.

Mr. CLARKE. I desire to state that I have no particular wish to go on now. It was entirely unexpected to me that this article would be called up to-day. But I had prepared an amendment the other day, in the absence of the gentleman from Kent, (Mr. Chambers); otherwise I would have submitted it to him for his consideration and correction. I certainly have no desire to go on this morning, if any gentleman here desires to be heard now, although I have prepared some remarks upon the subject, and will go on if the Convention desire it.

Mr. SANDS. If the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke) will yield the floor for a moment—

Mr. CLARKE. I will do so.

Mr. SANDS. I propose the following as an amendment to the amendment; insert the words:

"Provided, That nothing in this article contained shall be construed as giving to the State a right to secede from the Federal Union, or to form a confederation with any other State or States of the Union, or to seize by force of arms or otherwise any property of the United States situate and being within the limits of this State, but that these acts are hereby expressly forbidden;"

—after the word "thereof," where it occurs near the close of the amendment or Mr. Clarke, and before the words, "and is not bound to yield obedience," &c.

Mr. CLARKE. I will yield to the gentleman